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CLAIMS

What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims:

1. A device for placing and operating a remotely controllable video camera and the like, on a remote surface, comprising:
 - (a) a primary housing, the primary housing having a top end, the top end having an opening;
 - (b) a compression member positioned within the primary housing;
 - (c) at least three legs, each leg being connected to the primary housing, each leg further being movable between a first position, substantially adjacent the primary housing, and a second position, extending from the primary housing, such movement being in response to movement of the compression member;
 - (d) a leg securing member, the leg securing member being movable between a first position and a second position in response to motion of the compression member, the leg securing member

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securing at least one leg in the leg first position when the leg securing member is in the first position, the compression member being retained by such securement in the compressed position, the leg securing member further releasing the at least one leg when the leg securing member is in the second position, the compression member being released to decompress when the at least one leg is released, the decompression causing the legs to move into the legs' second positions, such that the legs support the primary housing in a position which is generally upright;

- (e) a camera housing for securing and positioning the camera, the camera housing being at least partially transparent for the camera view;
- (f) a camera housing positioning member, the camera housing positioning member causing the camera housing to lower through the primary housing top end opening as the compression member is compressed, and to elevate through the primary housing top end opening when the compression member decompresses, such

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elevation positioning the camera housing such that the camera view substantially clears the primary housing;

- (g) a motor, the activated motor moving the leg securing member from the first to the second position; and
- (h) means for activating and deactivating the motor, such that, after the device has been propelled on to the remote surface, the motor is activated, causing the leg securing member to move to the second position, which in turn causes the compression member to decompress, the decompression causing the legs to move to the second position, such leg motion lifting the primary housing until it is supported by all the legs, the decompression also elevating the camera housing through the primary housing top opening, such that the camera can be operated remotely to provide a view of the remote surface vicinity.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the means for activating and deactivating the motor is a timer, the timer activating and deactivating the motor at predetermined times.

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3. The device of claim 1, wherein the means for activating and deactivating the motor comprises the motor, the motor being adapted for remote control.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein the leg securing member further comprises at least one pin, at least one leg further comprises a notch, and the primary housing further comprises a hole, the pin, notch and hole being aligned such that the pin protrudes through the hole and mates with the notch when the leg securing member is in its first position, such mating causing the leg to be secured adjacent the primary housing, and further such that the movement of the leg securing member to its second position caused the pin to retract through the primary housing hole, such retraction releasing the leg.

5. The device of claim 4, wherein the number of leg securing member pins, primary housing holes, and leg notches corresponds to the number of legs such that each leg is secured.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein the motor is an electric motor.

7. The device of claim 6, wherein the motor is adapted to receive

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battery power.

8. The device of claim 1, wherein the compression member is a spring.
9. The device of claim 1, wherein the leg securing member secures all the legs.
10. The device of claim 1, wherein the primary housing further comprises at least three recesses, each recess aligned with one of the legs, such that each leg is drawn into a recess as each leg is moved adjacent the primary housing.
11. The device of claim 10, wherein the primary housing recesses are sized such that the body of each of the legs is substantially encompassed by the recess.
12. The device of claim 1, wherein the number of legs is three.
13. The device of claim 1, wherein the number of legs is four.
14. The device of claim 1, wherein the device is hand thrown to the remote surface.
15. The device of claim 1, wherein the device is launched to the

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remote surface.

16. The device of claim 1, further comprising a visual signal transmitter positioned within the primary housing for providing a visual signal to a remote receiver.

17. The device of claim 1, further comprising an audio and visual signal transmitter positioned within the primary housing for providing audio and visual signals to a remote receiver.

18. The device of claim 1, further comprising a circuit board positioned within the primary housing, the circuit board providing electronic cooperation between the camera and a remote transmitting and receiving unit, such that the camera is remotely controlled as to rotation, tilt, on, off, focus and exposure.

19. The device of claim 1, wherein the camera housing further comprises a top member, the top member being adapted to substantially seal the primary housing top end opening when the legs are in the first position.

20. The device of claim 19, wherein the camera has an antenna and the camera housing top member further comprises a hole, the hole providing

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passage for the camera antenna from the camera housing through the camera housing top end.

21. The device of claim 1, further comprising:

- (a) a worm drive, the worm drive being in rotation communication with the motor such that the activated motor causes rotation of the worm drive; and
- (b) the leg securing member, the leg securing member further comprising a hole, the worm drive being threaded within the hole such that the rotating worm drive causes the leg securing member to move to the second position.

22. The device of claim 1, further comprising a remotely controlled rotation motor, the rotation motor being positioned within the primary housing such that when activated, the camera housing is rotated.

23. The device of claim 1, further comprising a remotely controlled tilt motor, the tilt motor being positioned on the camera housing such that when activated, the camera is tilted within the camera housing.

24. The device of claim 1, further comprising at least three link

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members, at least one link member for each leg, the link members linking motion of the legs to motion of the compression member.

25. The device of claim 1, further comprising:

- (a) the legs, each leg having a first and second end, each leg's first end having a substantially perpendicular link extension, each leg's first end being hinged to the primary housing proximate the joinder of the leg to the extension member;
- (b) the compression member, the compression member further having a top portion; and
- (c) a link member for each link extension, the link member connecting each link extension to the compression member top portion, such that the link extension is pulled upward as the compression member compresses.

26. A device for acquiring a view of the vicinity of a remote surface, comprising:

- (a) a primary housing, the primary housing having a top end, the top end having an opening;

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- (b) a compression member positioned within the primary housing;
- (c) at least three legs, each leg being connected to the primary housing, each leg further being movable between a first position, substantially adjacent the primary housing, and a second position, extending from the primary housing, such movement being in response to movement of the compression member;
- (d) a leg securing member, the leg securing member being movable between a first position and a second position in response to motion of the compression member, the leg securing member securing at least one leg in the leg first position when the leg securing member is in the first position, the compression member being retained by such securement in the compressed position, the leg securing member further releasing the at least one leg when the leg securing member is in the second position, the compression member being released to decompress when the at least one leg is released, the decompression causing the legs to move into the legs' second positions, such that the legs support

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the primary housing in a position which is generally upright;

- (e) a remotely controllable camera;
- (f) a camera positioning member, the camera positioning member causing the camera to lower through the primary housing top end opening as the compression member is compressed, and to elevate through the primary housing top end opening when the compression member decompresses, such elevation positioning the camera such that the camera view substantially clears the primary housing;
- (g) a motor, the activated motor moving the leg securing member from the first to the second position;
- (h) means for activating and deactivating the motor, such that, after the device has been propelled on to the remote surface, the motor is activated, causing the leg securing member to move to the second position, which in turn causes the compression member to decompress, the decompression causing the legs to move to the second position, such leg motion righting the primary housing,

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the decompression also elevating the camera through the primary housing top opening, such that the camera can be operated remotely to provide a view of the remote surface vicinity.

27. The device of claim 26, wherein the viewing device is a video camera.

28. A device for placing and operating a remotely controllable video camera and the like, on a remote surface, comprising:

- (a) a primary housing, the primary housing having a top portion, the top portion being substantially transparent;
- (b) a compression member positioned within the primary housing;
- (c) at least three legs, each leg being connected to the primary housing, each leg further being movable between a first position, substantially adjacent the primary housing, and a second position, extending from the primary housing, such movement being in response to movement of the compression member;
- (d) a leg securing member, the leg securing member being movable between a first position and a second position in response to

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- motion of the compression member, the leg securing member securing at least one leg in the leg first position when the leg securing member is in the first position, the compression member being retained by such securement in the compressed position, the leg securing member further releasing the at least one leg when the leg securing member is in the second position, the compression member being released to decompress when the at least one leg is released, the decompression causing the legs to move into the legs' second positions, such that the legs support the primary housing in a position which is generally upright;
- (e) a camera positioning member, the camera positioning member positioning the camera such that the camera view is through the primary housing top portion;
 - (f) a motor, the activated motor moving the leg securing member from the first to the second position;
 - (g) means for activating and deactivating the motor, such that, after the device has been propelled on to the remote surface, the motor

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is activated, causing the leg securing member to move to the second position, which in turn causes the compression member to decompress, the decompression causing the legs to move to the second position, such leg motion righting the primary housing, such that the camera can be operated remotely to provide a view of the remote surface vicinity through the primary housing top portion.

29. A device for placing and operating a viewing device and the like, on a remote surface, comprising:

- (a) a housing
- (b) means for moving the housing to a generally upright position from a generally horizontal position, after the device has been propelled to a remote surface, and supporting the housing in the upright position; and
- (c) means for movably securing the viewing device in the housing such that the viewing device is movable to a viewing position outside the housing.

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30. The device of claim 29, further comprising means for rotating the viewing device for a panoramic view.

31. The device of claim 29, further comprising means for tilting the viewing device for an inclined view.

32. A method for placing and operating a viewing device and the like, on a remote surface, comprising the steps of:

- (a) projecting a housing enclosing the viewing device to the remote surface;
- (b) moving the housing from a generally horizontal to a generally upright position; and
- (c) moving the viewing device from an enclosed position in the housing to an extended position out of the housing such that the viewing device views the vicinity of the remote surface.

33. A device for placing and operating a remotely controllable viewing device and the like, on a remote surface, comprising:

- (a) a primary housing, the primary housing having a top end, the top end having an opening;

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- (b) a load member positioned within the primary housing;
- (c) at least three legs, each leg being connected to the primary housing, each leg further being movable between a first position, substantially adjacent the primary housing, and a second position, extending from the primary housing, such movement being in response to movement of the load member;
- (d) a leg securing member, the leg securing member being movable between a first position and a second position in response to motion of the load member, the leg securing member securing at least one leg in the leg first position when the leg securing member is in the first position, the load member being retained by such securement in the loaded position, the leg securing member further releasing the at least one leg when the leg securing member is in the second position, the load member being released to unload when the at least one leg is released, the unloading causing the legs to move into the legs' second positions, such that the legs support the primary housing in a

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position which is generally upright;

- (e) a viewing device housing for securing and positioning the viewing device, the viewing device housing being at least partially transparent for the viewing device view;
- (f) a viewing device housing positioning member, the viewing device housing positioning member causing the viewing device housing to lower through the primary housing top end opening as the compression member is compressed, and to elevate through the primary housing top end opening when the load member unloads, such elevation positioning the viewing device housing such that the viewing device view substantially clears the primary housing;
- (g) a motor, the activated motor moving the leg securing member from the first to the second position; and
- (h) means for activating and deactivating the motor, such that, after the device has been propelled on to the remote surface, the motor is activated, causing the leg securing member to move to the second position, which in turn causes the load member to unload,

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the unloading causing the legs to move to the second position, such leg motion lifting the primary housing until it is supported by all the legs, the unloading also elevating the viewing device housing through the primary housing top opening, such that the viewing device can be operated remotely to provide a view of the remote surface vicinity.

34. The device of claim 33, further comprising a remote transmitting and receiving unit for receiving visual signals from the propelled device and transmitting signals to operate the viewing device.

35. The device of claim 34, wherein the remote transmitting and receiving unit also receives audio signals.

36. A device for placing and operating a remotely controllable video camera and the like, on a remote surface, comprising:

- (a) a primary housing, the primary housing having a top end, the top end having an opening;
- (b) a compression member positioned within the primary housing;
- (c) four legs, each leg being connected to the primary housing, each

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leg further being movable between a first position, substantially adjacent the primary housing, and a second position, extending from the primary housing, such movement being in response to movement of the compression member;

- (d) a leg securing member, the leg securing member being movable between a first position and a second position in response to motion of the compression member, the leg securing member securing each leg in the leg first position when the leg securing member is in the first position, the compression member being retained by such securement in the compressed position, the leg securing member further releasing the legs when the leg securing member is in the second position, the compression member being released to decompress when the legs are released, the decompression causing the legs to move into the legs' second positions, such that the legs support the primary housing in a position which is generally upright;
- (e) a camera housing for securing and positioning the camera, the

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camera housing having a transparent portion;

- (f) a camera housing positioning member, the camera housing positioning member causing the camera housing to lower through the primary housing top end opening as the compression member is compressed, and to elevate through the primary housing top end opening when the compression member decompresses, such elevation positioning the camera housing such that the camera view substantially clears the primary housing;
- (g) a motor, the activated motor moving the leg securing member from the first to the second position;
- (h) a timer for activating and deactivating the motor, such that, after the device has been propelled on to the remote surface, the motor is activated, causing the leg securing member to move to the second position, which in turn causes the compression member to decompress, the decompression causing the legs to move to the second position, such leg motion lifting the primary housing until it is supported by all the legs, the decompression also elevating

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the camera housing through the primary housing top opening, such that the camera can be operated remotely to provide a view of the remote surface vicinity.

- (i) a remotely controlled rotation motor, the rotation motor being positioned within the primary housing such that when activated, the camera is housing is rotated; and
- (j) a remotely controlled tilt motor, the tilt motor being positioned on the camera housing such that when activated, the camera is tilted within the camera housing.